[English]

Hindustan Shipyard Limited

1860. SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have allowed Hindustan Shipyard Ltd. to sell two ships manufactured by them at a prevailing market prices;

(b0 if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have any proposal to utilise the spare capacity of the shipyard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGADISH TYTLER): (a) and (b). The Yard is passing through a very severe financial crists and the accumulated losses upto 31.3. 91 are Rs. 351. 55 crores. The Company is continuing to incur heavy losses. There are 3 ships under construction in H.S.L. A proposal to allow HSL to sell them at prevailing market prices is being considered in order to enable the Shipyard to meet the immediate cash flow problem.

(c) and (d). A number of steps are under consideration of the Govt. for revival of the shipyard. Apart from the proposal for sale of the 3 ships ordered by the Shipping Corporation of India Limited in the open market, certain other Steps like capital re-structuring, exemption from Central levies etc. are also under consideration.

The Hindustan Shipyard Limited has the following orders on hand:

1. No. 27, 000 DWT Carrier
2. Nos. 42, 750 DWT Bulk Carriers
2 Nos. Offshore Patrol Vessels
7 Nos. Top side Decks

the above proposed relief measures, it is hoped would enable the Yard to complete the above orders.

Revision of labour Laws to boost Garment Exports

1861. SHRI N. DENNIS: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to revise the labour laws to boost garment exports; and

(b) if so, the details thereof

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) and (b). Garment exportrs have informally represented that there must be separate laws in respect of workers employed in exporting units keeping in view the special problems faced by exporters. However, no concrete proposal has been formulated in this regard.

Amendment to Motor Vehicles Act, 1988

1862. SHRI JEEWAN SHARJMA:
SHRI ARVIND TRIVEDI:

Will the Minister SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to amend the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988;

(b) if so, the details of the amendments proposed to be made; and

(c) by what time the amendments are likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGADISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The details are given in the Statement below.

(c) The recommendations of the Review Committee have been endorsed by the Transport Development Council in its meeting held on 14th January, 1992. The Government have initiated necessary action for amendment of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 and Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989 to implement these recommendations. At this stage no definite time frame can be indicated as to when the amendments will be introduced.

STATEMENT

Important changes proposed to be brought out in the provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act are:

medical certificate need not be insisted upon from the applicants to drive a non-transport vehicle if he has not completed 50 years of age;

- where the applicant for a driving licence fails in the test of competence to drive he may be permitted to appear for a retest after a lapse of 7 days;

- holders of valid driving licence issued by other countries shall be exempted from the requirements of test, etc. and granted license in India on the basis of licence issued by other countries;

- to delete the provision regarding fixing of age of the motor vehicles;

- the power to fix fees conferred on the Central Government under clause (b) of section 64 to be transferred to the rule making powers of the State Government;

- the holder if a permit of an articulated vehicle may use the prime-mover for a semi-trailer for any articulated vehicle owned by him with a semi-trailer or a prime-mover of any articulated vehicle either owned by him or beloging to another owner;

- to delete the provsion regarding the maximum number of stage carriage permits that can be granted to any individuals/compaines (not being a transport undertaking);

to empower the State Governments to direct by notification in the Official Gazette the Regional Transport Autjority/ State Transport Autjogity to fix maximum number of permits on any route taking into consideration the road conditions and capability of the read to take additional traffic;

- to empower the Regional Transport Authority to formulate rules for plying stage carriage and invite applications for the grant of permits;

to cast a duty on the driver or other person in-charge of the vehicle to convey the injured to the nearest medical practitioner or hospital and to make the injured and render all medical partitioned to attained to the injured and render all medical aid without waiting for the procedural formalities of treating the injured after receipt of police report;

- to raise the amount of compensation from Rs. 25, 000 to Rs. 50, 000 in respect of death and from Rs. 12, 000 to Rs. 25, 000 in respect of permanent disablement;

to enhance the amount of compensation in the case of hit and run accident cases in the case of death from Rs. 8, 500 to Rs. 25, 000 and from Rs. 2, 500 in case of grievous hurt;

to make it obligatory on the part of manufacturers to issue a certificate to the effect that every vehicle released for sale shall be covered by a warranty certificate issued by the manufacturer that the vehicle will be conforming to the pollution standards for a period of two years subject to proper maintenance by the owner, and if during the warranty period the vehicle is found to violate the emission standards the vehicle shall be liable to be recalled by the manufacturer and suitable replacement/compensation given to the owner.

Support to Small and Medium Industrial Units by International Development Research Centre

1863. SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the International Development Research Centre, a funding agency of Canada has decided to support small and medium industrial units in India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Conference on Economic Advancement of Poor Rural Women

1864. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(b) whether the International Fund for Agricultural Development, and United nation agency, propose to organise a conference on the 'Economic Advancement of Poor Rural Women' in Geneva;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether India propose to participate in the Conference; and

(d) if so, the issues likely to be raised in the conference?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE ((SHRI RANESHWAR THAKUR): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. A summit on the Economic Advancement of the Rural Women sponsored by the International fund for Agricultural development (IFAD) was held in Geneva, Switzerland on February 25 - 26 , 1992.

(c) India was represented at the summit by Smt. Mahasveta Devi as a Special Representative of Smt. J. Venkataraman, wife of the President, Shri R. Venkataraman.

(d) The summit was intended to create global awareness of poor rural women's economic constraints, contribution and potential and to mobileses action and resources to improve rural women's socio-economic position worldwide by Governments; non-governmental organisations and the United Nations System.

[*English*]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (hooghly): Mr. Speaker, Sir. through you, I would like to draw the attention of this August House to a very serious matter. The matter is that it has emanated from posible and very knowledgeable quarters that foreigners are being allowed to sit though highly confedential meetings in the Prime Minister's Office. Now, as you know, foreigners are being allowed to monitor the economic administration of our country for sometime now; former bureaucrat of fund-Bank have taken over our economic administration and now the news has come that in the name of research some English Professor has been